

A Brief History of Environmental Injustice in Middle Tennessee

From Urban Renewal, to Toxic Landfills, to Brownfields Redevelopment, to Urban Mining, to “Green Gentrification”

Dr. David A. Padgett

Associate Professor of Geography

Tennessee State University

January 2019

At right – North Nashville residents hold press conference to voice their concerns about a waste grease facility planned to be sited in their community – summer 2018



1950s-1960s -Urban Renewal (i.e. Black Removal) at Nashville, Tennessee



Black Bottom – Dr. Bobby Lovett

<https://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entries/black-bottom/>

A City Swept Clean – Bill Carey

<https://www.nashvillescene.com/news/article/13006140/a-city-swept-clean>

1960s North Nashville vs. Interstate 40



An African American Community's Fight over Interstate 40

http://www.tn4me.org/sapage.cfm/sa_id/248/era_id/8/major_id/12/minor_id/9/a_id/172

Late 1960s The Bordeaux Landfill



Environmental Racism? – Josh Tinley

<https://www.nashvillescene.com/news/article/13010271/environmental-racism>

1973 The Nashville Thermal Transfer Waste-to-Energy Facility



Negative Externalities
Impacting Nashville
Black Communities:

Air pollution fallout in
the Cayce Homes
contributing to elevated
pediatric asthma cases.

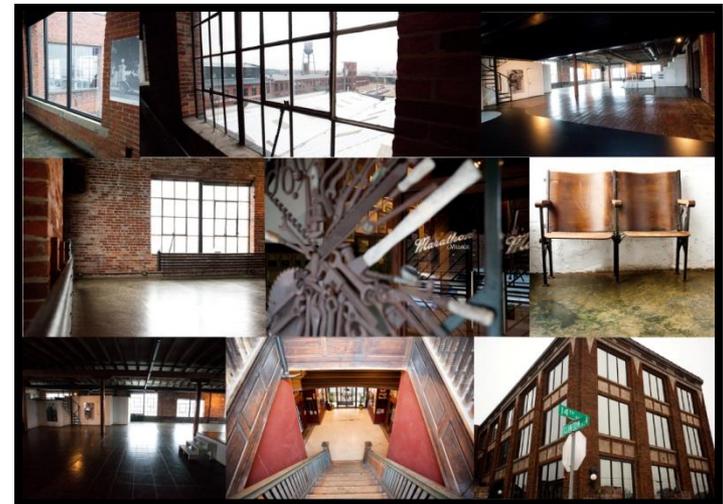
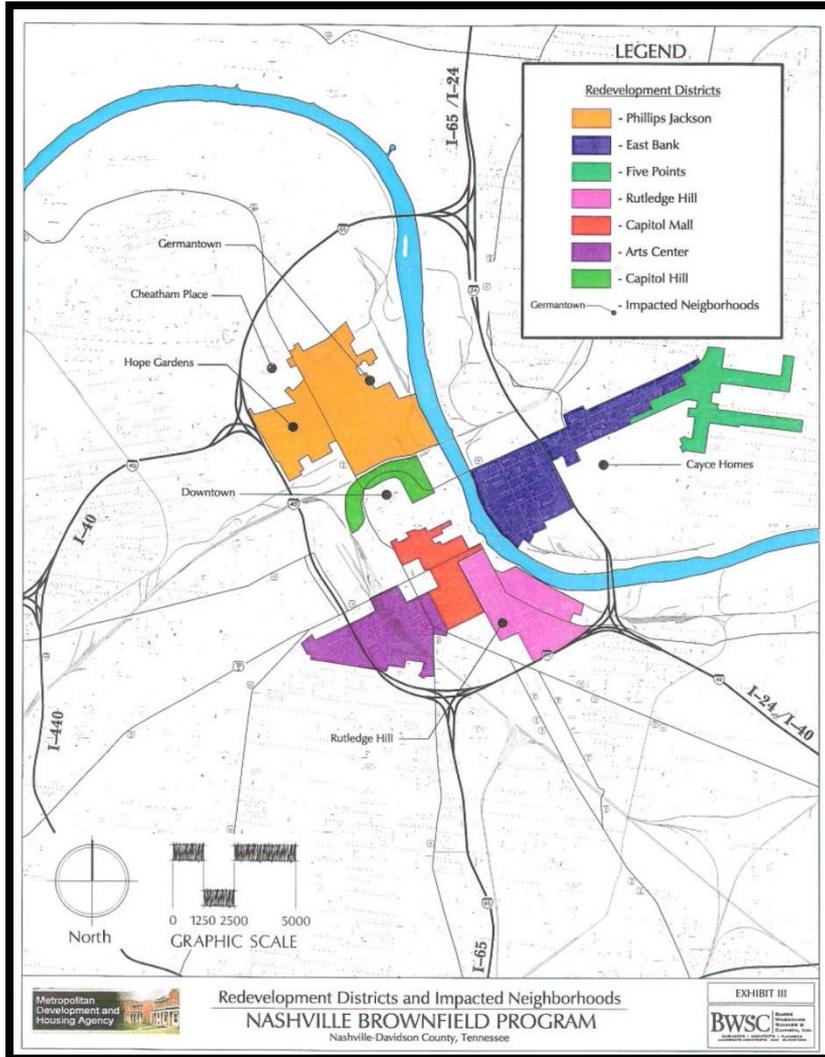
Waste ash piles in
Salemtnown community

Illegal “soil mine” in
Bordeaux used to cover
ash.

Nashville to Use Waste for Energy – New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/1973/12/10/archives/nashville-to-use-waste-for-energy-thermal-transfer-plant-to-have.html>

1990s-2000s “Urban Land Recycling” Nashville Brownfield Program



2014 Bordeaux Landfill “Recycled”

Bordeaux Landfill Property is now a Certified Natural Habitat

10/1/2013

Mayor Karl Dean and members of The Metro Council joined Metro Public Works at the old Bordeaux Landfill on Thursday, Sept. 26 to recognize Metro Government's recent achievement in preserving the property as a natural habitat and receiving the prestigious Wildlife Habitat Council's Wildlife at Work certification for the Bordeaux Landfill property.

Metro Public Works made a concerted effort, beginning in 2004, to plant native plants and grasses on the over 300 acre property. The Bordeaux Landfill opened in 1973 and accepted garbage for over 20 years before closing in 1996.

The certification criteria are stringent and programs must demonstrate that they have been active with a detailed management plan that documents the purposeful effort to remove invasive plant species and encourage the growth of native plants.

Currently, 16 native plants and 35 animal species call the closed landfill their home. Animal species living on the property include deer, rabbit, beaver, wild turkey, hawks, Kestrel, Bluebirds and turtles.

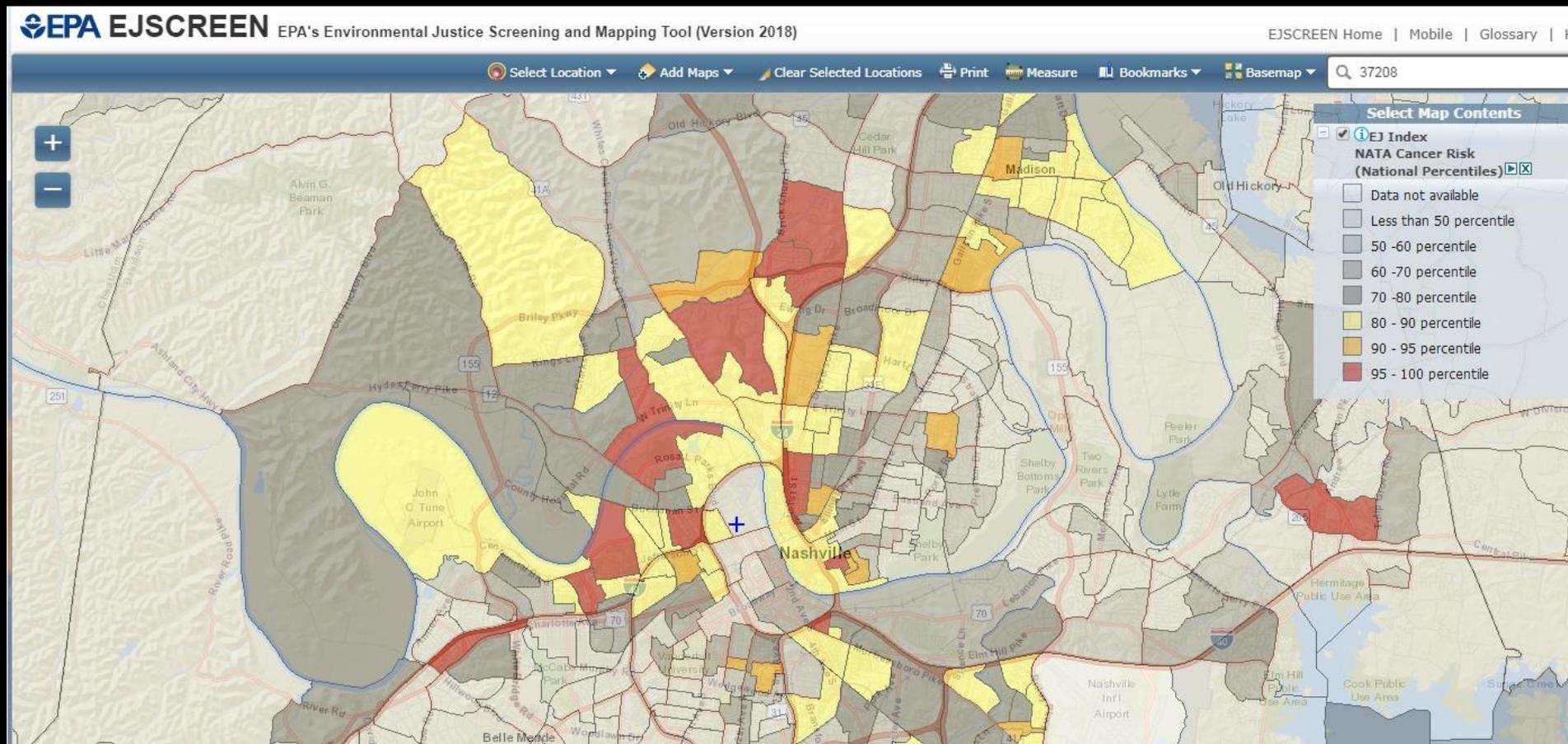


2016 Thermal Waste Transfer Facility Site “Recycled”



Nashville's Ascend Amphitheatre opens on former Thermal Waste Facility Brownfields Site

2018 Bordeaux Community-Environmental Threats Continue...



EJ SCREEN map of North Nashville and environs – NATA Cancer Risk EJ Index

2018 Bordeaux Community-Environmental Threats Continue...

HEADLINES

Council members halt Bordeaux waste facility

by PRIDE Newsdesk • July 19, 2018



(l-r) Councilman Scott Davis, Councilman Jonathan Hall, At-Large Councilwoman Erica Gilmore, and At-Large Councilwoman Sharon Hurt. (photos: Metro Council)

In tag team style, council members Scott Davis, Jonathan Hall, Erica Gilmore, and Sharon Hurt worked together with the community to put the brakes on a food-waste facility for the Bordeaux area.

Residents were alarmed to discover last week that a bill was scheduled for final reading to approve plans for a solid waste processing facility at 4648 Ashland City Highway.

According to the area's newly elected District Councilman Jonathan Hall: "Ninety-nine percent of the district is dead-set against it."

Bordeaux to receive another waste facility? - Nashville Pride
<http://pridepublishinggroup.com/pride/2018/07/12/35633/>

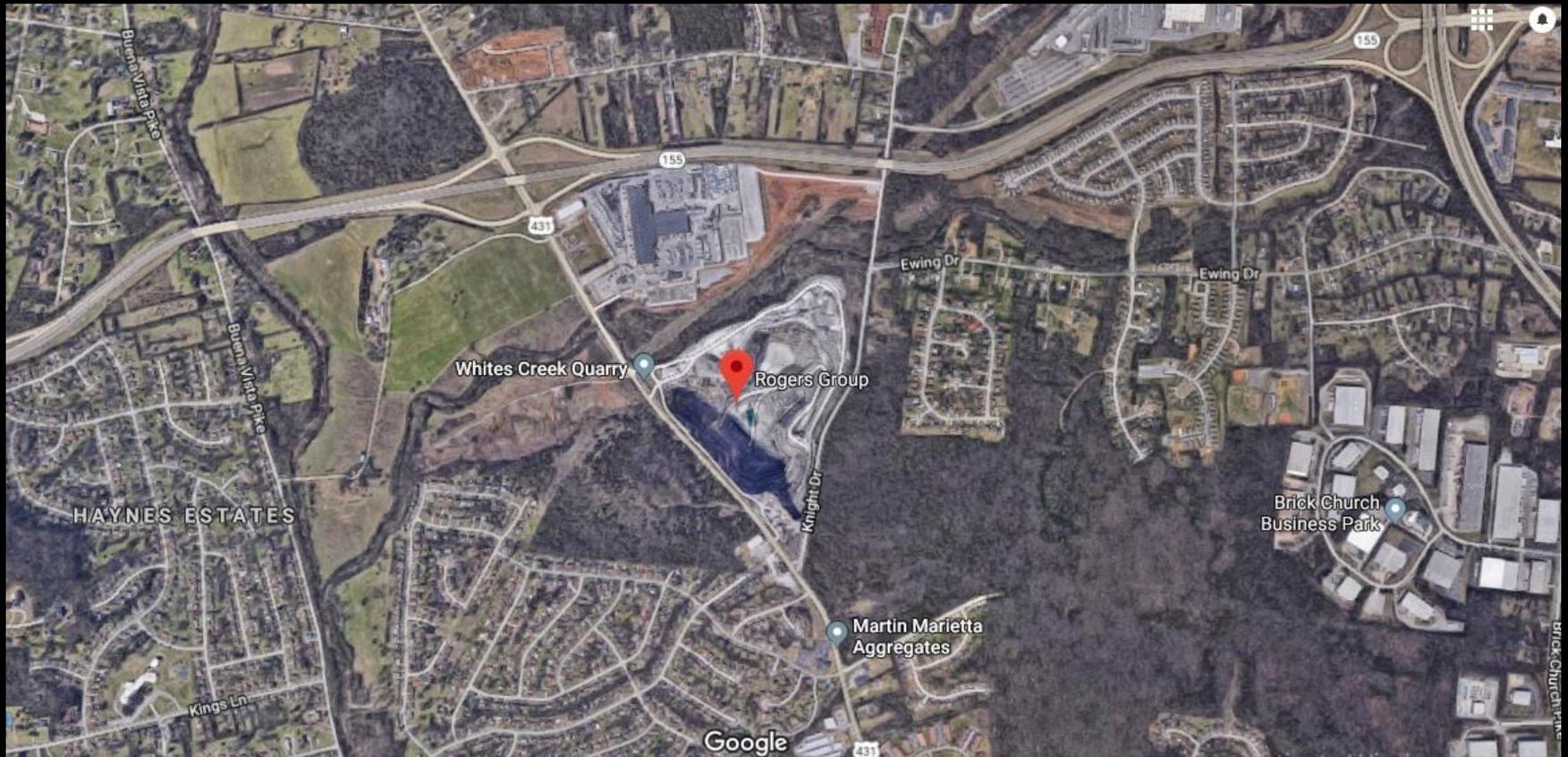
2018 Bordeaux Community-Environmental Threats Continue...

Whites Creek Quarry



2018 Bordeaux Community-Environmental Threats Continue...

Whites Creek Quarry



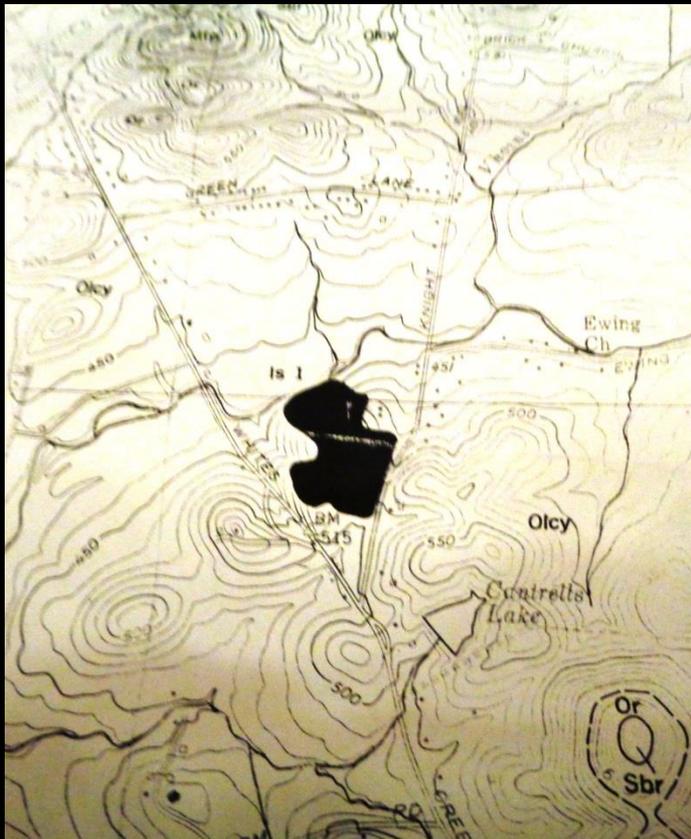
2018 Bordeaux Community-Environmental Threats Continue...

Whites Creek Quarry



2018 Bordeaux Community-Environmental Threats Continue...

Whites Creek Quarry Geology



Olcy

Leipers and Catheys Formations

Limestone, argillaceous, nodular and shaly, medium-dark gray to brownish-gray, thin-bedded, fossiliferous; limestone, dark-gray (weathers pale yellowish-brown), fine-grained, thin- to medium-bedded; and calcarenite, medium-light gray to brownish-gray, coarse-grained, medium-bedded, crossbedded, contains brown phosphate pellets, weathers to brown phosphatic residuum. Basal beds contain abundant *Constellaria*. Thickness 150 to 220 feet.

2018 Bordeaux Community-Environmental Threats Continue...

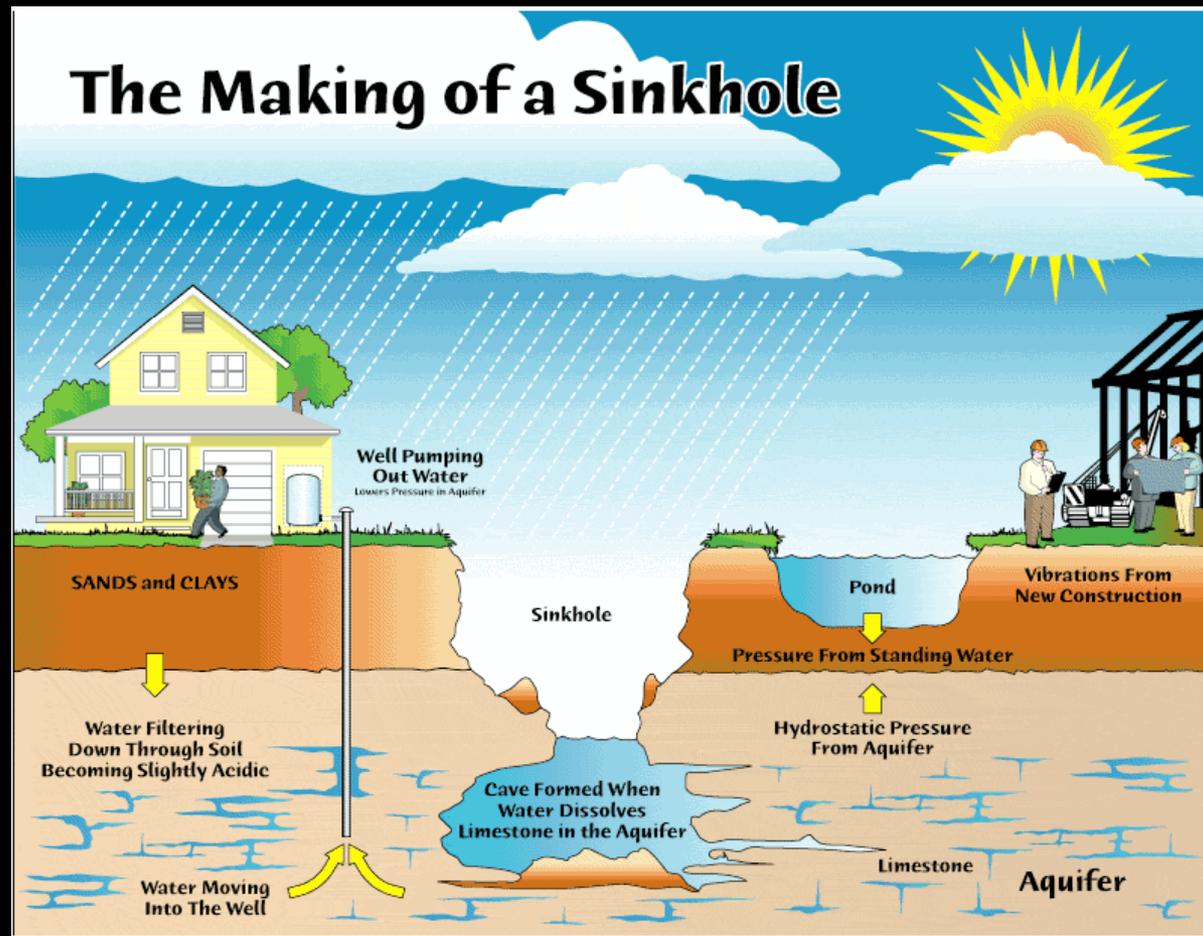
Whites Creek Quarry Geology



Leipers and Catheys Formation – Subsurface Weathering and Potential Sinkhole Formation
(Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/chucksutherland/with/12324938215/>)

2018 Bordeaux Community-Environmental Threats Continue...

Whites Creek Quarry Geology



2019 Whites Creek Quarry – Current Status

Two years ago, the **quarry operations moved totally underground** and no more surface mining is being done. They have not extended under Knight Road or Whites Creek and they are currently only mining underneath the footprint of the original quarry.

Quarry operations can and will continue indefinitely and there is no end date. **They own 400+ acres across Knight Road and desire at some point in the future to mine underground on that property.** They would also close the aging Asphalt facility and build a new state-of-the-arts facility across Knight Road that would be visually less impactful.

They have proposed gifting the 400+ acres of surface land to the community with the only stipulation no residential homes will be built on it. They would create a dedicated funding source to support the community's vision for the use of the land. If the community was to consider such an offer, there would be a series of visioning sessions to create a community plan.

In the short term, we are proposing to enlist the services of an independent geologist to advise us on the effects of underground mining near residential communities and monitor and evaluate the current blasting levels.

Winnie Forrester – Haynes-Trinity Neighborhood Coalition

Toxic Waste, Solid Waste, and Race: Three Case Studies in Middle Tennessee



Green Gentrification at the
Edgehill Community Dry
Cleaners Brownfields Site



Environmental Racism and the
Dickson County Landfill



The Tennessee State University Community/University
Recycling Center

2003-2014: Tennessee State University Campus- Community Recycling Project

Partners: Nashville Office of Public Works, TSU Facilities Management Office, TSU Office of Student Affairs, Hadley Park Neighborhood Association, Jefferson Street United Merchants Partnership (JUMP), African American Cultural Alliance (AACAA), EarthMatters Tennessee, TSU Gateway 2 Heritage Student Organization, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC)

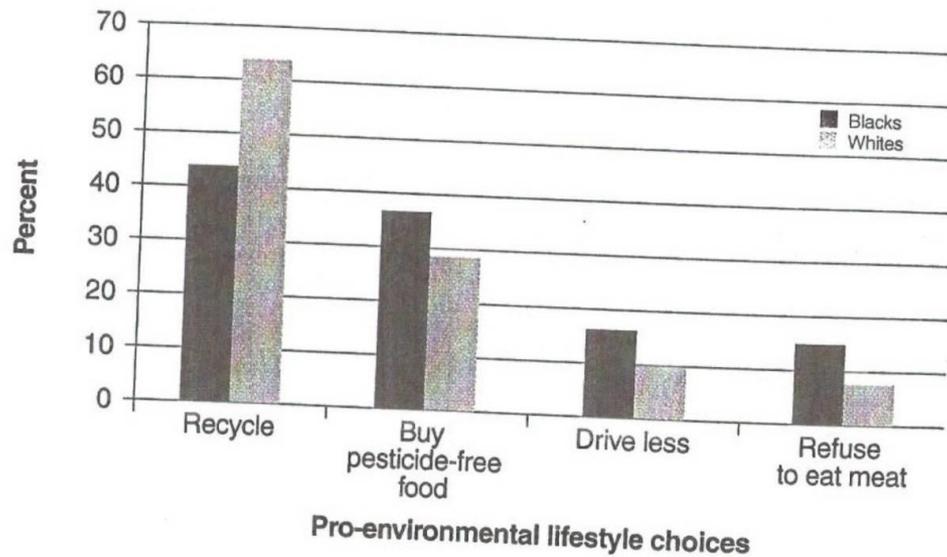
Courses: Cartography (GEOG 3100), Urban Geography (GEOG 4850)

Students: Urban Studies, Biology, Engineering, Political Science, Mathematics

Funding: National Wildlife Federation, U.S. Department of Energy



Figure 2. Respondents who “often” or “always” make pro-environmental lifestyle choices

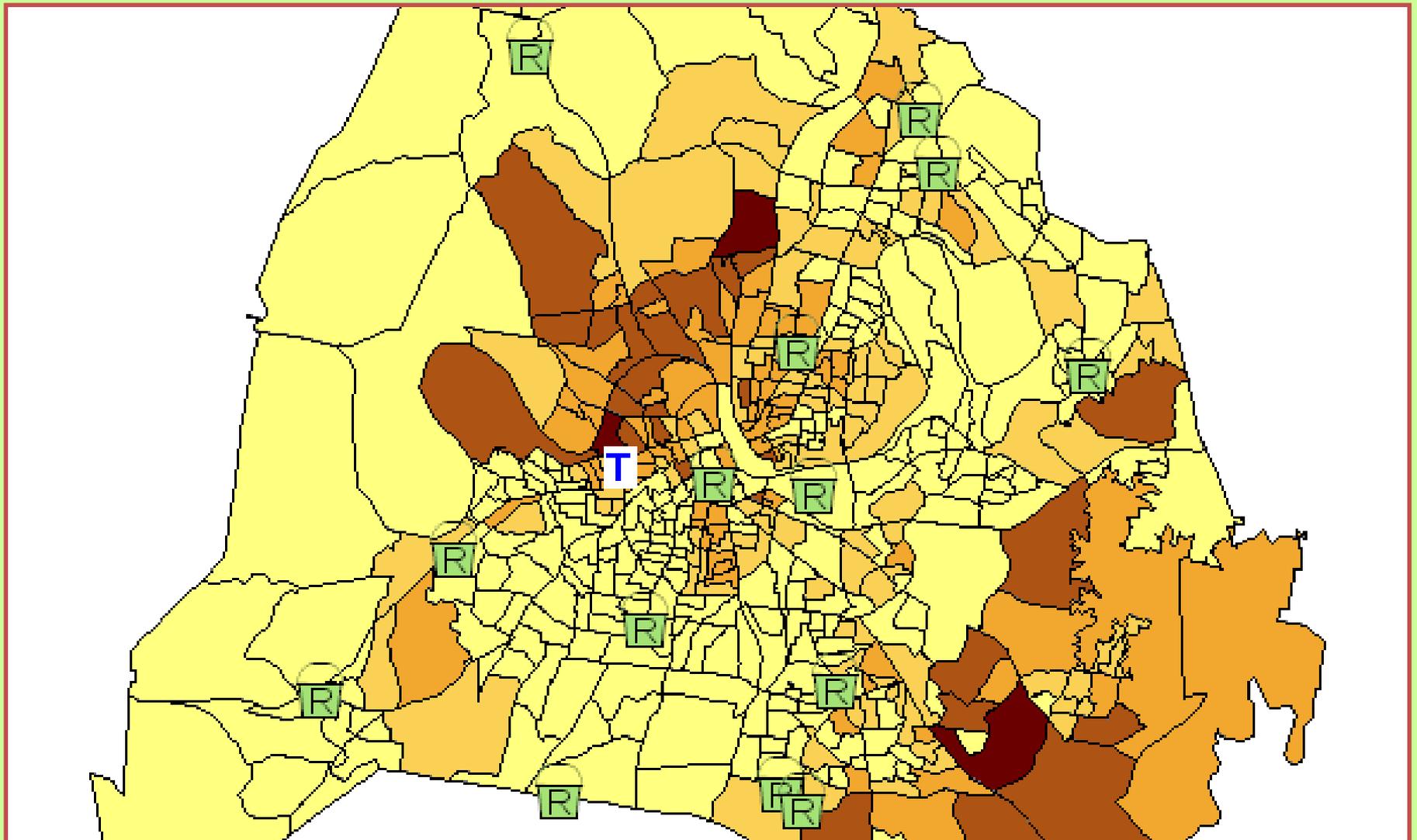


NOTE: The 1993 sample above is based on responses from 179 blacks and 1,347 whites.

SOURCE: 1993 General Social Survey. National Opinion Research Center, *General Social Surveys, 1972-2002* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002).

Source: Mohai, Paul. “Dispelling Old Myths: African American Concern for the Environment.” Environment Journal. Vol. 45, No. 5 (June 2003): 11-26.

Locations of Metro Recycling Centers in Proximity to Tennessee State University's Main Campus and Nashville/Davidson County's Black Population - 2004



2004 – The Tennessee State University **Campus/Community Recycling Pilot Project** gets seed funding via the National Wildlife Federation Campus Ecology Fellowship

fellowships - Campus Ecology - National Wildlife Federation - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Tennessee State Universit

http://www.nwf.org/campusEcology/resources/HTML/2004fellows.cfm

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Inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future

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National Wildlife Federation®
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fellowships

2004 Fellows

(Grant Period: February 2004 - December 2004)

National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) 2004 Campus Ecology fellows are building upon the efforts of 50 alumni fellows from 24 states across the country. With projects ranging from composting to green roofs and biodiesel to reuse and recycling, the fellows are partnering with campus and community members to advance initiatives toward a sustainable future.

In spirit of the National Wildlife Federation's continued commitment to fostering youth leadership within NWF and among our **Affiliate organizations**, the fellows are participating in a training hosted in conjunction with NWF's 2004 Annual Meeting in St. Louis, MO. The training

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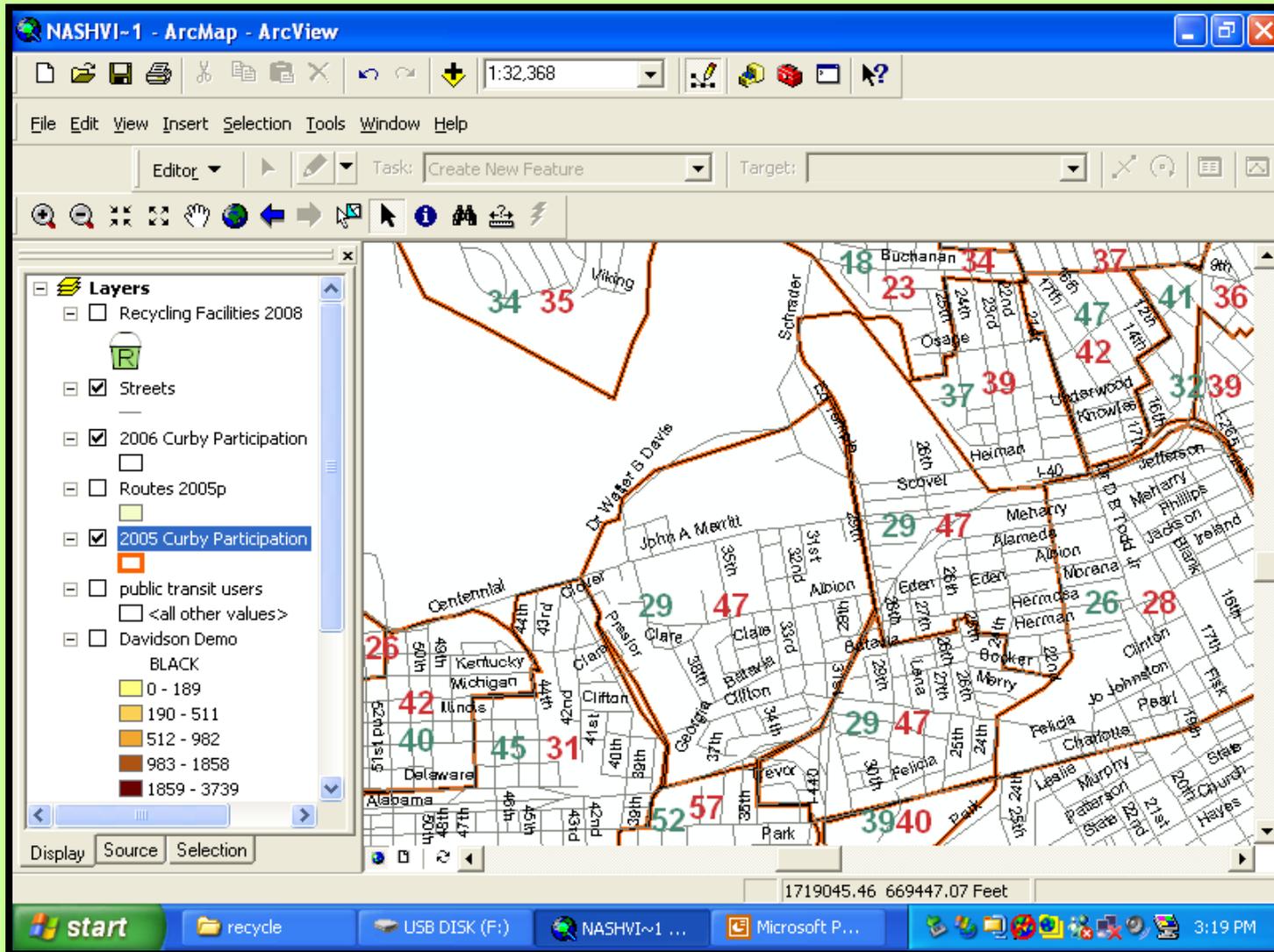
- > Guide to Climate Action Planning
- > Take the POWER VOTE Pledge
- > Oct 23 - Web Conference on Climate

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Campus-Community Recycling Pilot Project

GIS and GPS Mapping of Nashville Curbside Recycling Program Participation Rates by Neighborhood: 2005-2006



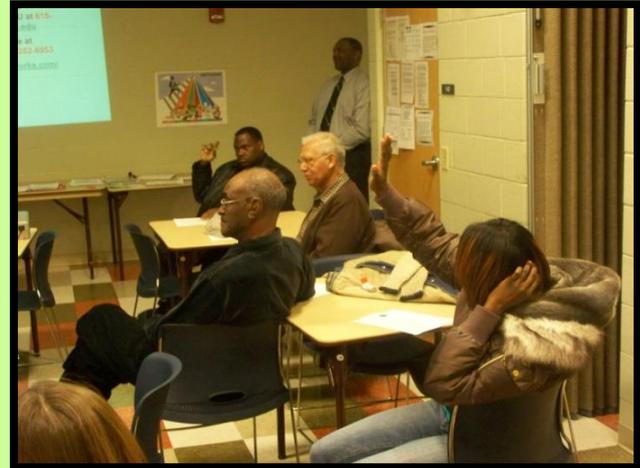
Institutional “Buy-In” Fall 2007

TSU Campus-Community Recycling Committee



Community Information Meetings

January 2008



TSU Campus-Community Recycling Center Site – Opens

April 22nd 2008 (Earth Day)

The recycling center is monitored by TSU Police and Facilities Management and emptied by the Nashville Office of Public Works.

TSU student environmental and other service organizations are working with TSU Facilities Management to move campus recyclable materials to the drop-off site.

Proceeds from the recyclables are used to fund “green scholarships” at TSU.

Grants funds are being pursued to support a campus-community environmental education initiative with the African American Cultural Alliance as community partner.



June 2011: TSU Campus-Community Recycling Center Downsized then Shut Down



Spring 2013: TSU Facilities Management Places and Maintains Recycling Receptacles throughout the Campus

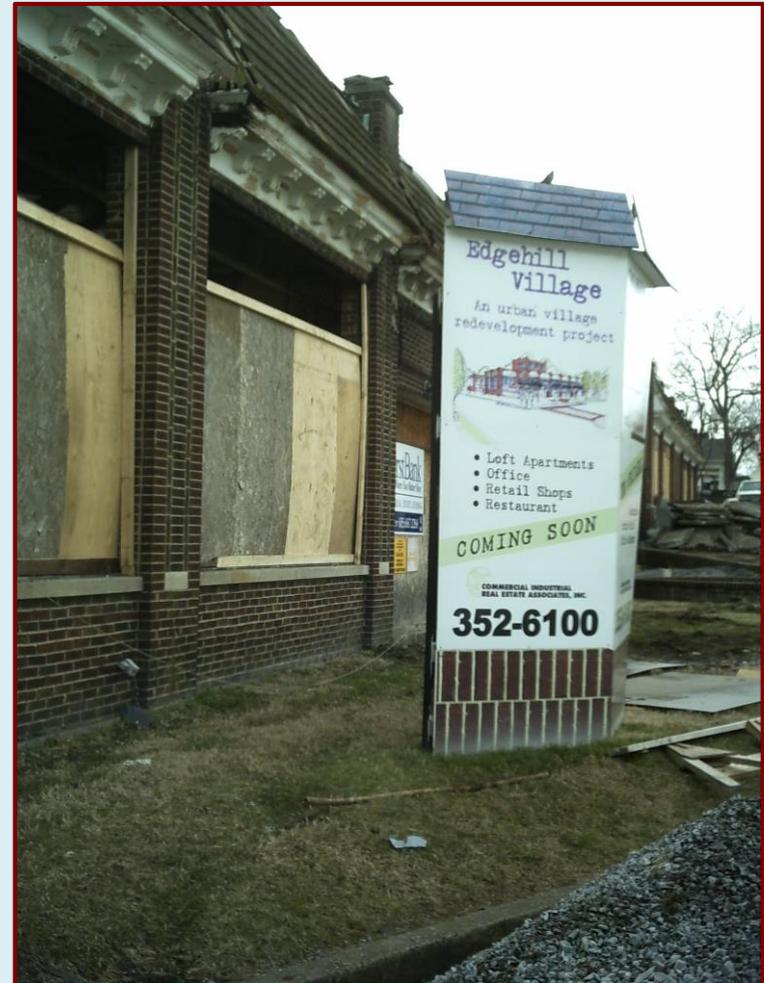


Potential for Future Research on Community and Campus Recycling using GIS

- Mapping the spatial distribution of Nashville's recycling facilities and local demographics
- Mapping participation in the "Curby" recycling program by race and income
- Mapping the locations of TSU's recycling receptacles



“Green Gentrification”
Edgehill Community Dry Cleaners
Brownfields Site
Nashville, Tennessee



Chemicals pose danger if site redeveloped

Metro study confirms Edgehill residents' fears over former dry-cleaner location

By **HOLLY EDWARDS**
Staff Writer

Toxic chemicals in the ground at the old White Way Cleaners facility could harm residents in the Edgehill community during construction of a proposed development at the site, a Metro Health Department study released yesterday concluded.

The chemicals, including toxic solvents widely used and formerly unregulated in the dry-cleaning industry, could become airborne or seep into the groundwater during excavation and blasting, and therefore must be cleaned up before such work begins, health officials said.

While Metro health officials said the chemicals pose no public health threat as long as they are not disturbed, they did not rule out the possibility that the chemicals have harmed community health in the past.

State environmental officials would have required the developers to clean up the site during the construction phase, but health officials didn't know whether nearby residents would be exposed to the chemicals during excavation and blasting.

The study, which had been requested by Councilwoman Ginger Hausser at the urging of the community, confirmed residents'

fears of the potential for exposure. More than 18,400 people live within a mile of the cleaners, according to U.S. Census data.

Wade Elam, a longtime owner of the former dry cleaners, said he has long known that the site needed to be cleaned up, so the study results came as no surprise.

He is part of a voluntary state program in which owners of dry cleaners pay taxes on the solvents they buy.

The tax revenue is then put into a pool of funds that participants can use to clean up their facilities.

Elam and other developers are planning to transform the site of the former cleaners into a 64,800-square-foot shopping, dining and residential complex.

The specific cleanup method to be used at the site and the cost have not been determined. Health officials say such cleanups usually take more than a year.

Representatives from two community groups, Janice Davis from Villa Wedge South Neighborhood Group and Peter Batarseh from Organized Neighbors of Edgehill, attended the news conference in which the health study was released. While Davis' group is opposed to the planned development and Batarseh's group supports it, both praised the work done by the health department to



protect the community.

The health department is also working on a second study to determine whether there are higher rates of diseases in the community associated with exposure to the chemicals, such as cancer, kidney and liver failure and Alzheimer's disease. That study is expected to be finished in about three months.

Metro health officials said levels at the site of such toxic substances as perchloroethylene, or perc, and vinyl chloride far exceed regulatory limits.

Perc, a toxic chemical long used by the dry-cleaning industry and recently outlawed in California, has been linked to cancer, kidney

and liver failure, reproductive disorders and birth defects.

As perc breaks down in the ground, it releases substances that are considered even more toxic, such as vinyl chloride, a known carcinogen, said Dr. Sammi Areola, an epidemiologist and lead researcher for the health department.

Areola said that perc levels should not exceed 11 parts per billion, but were found at levels in excess of 3,700 parts per billion at the site. Levels of vinyl chloride, which should not exceed .2 parts per billion, were found at levels of more than 4,700 parts per billion, he said.

The facility began as a laundry in 1931 and operated as a dry cleaner from 1947 to 2000.

Throughout that time, the study said, an unknown amount of toxic substances was released into the air through a smokestack, and into the ground as a result of faulty equipment and improper handling.

For most of that time, health officials said, dry-cleaning substances were not regulated and their health risks were unknown. ■

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DAVIDSON

Cleanup at former dry cleaner site begins; residents still wary

By **HOLLY EDWARDS**
Staff Writer

Cleanup of the old White Way dry cleaners site in the Edgehill community began yesterday as construction crews started removing concrete slabs and contaminated soil.

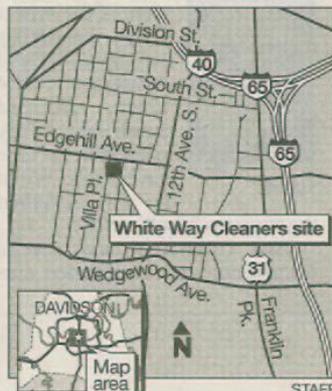
Residents in the area have been concerned for years that toxic chemicals remaining at the site from the dry-cleaning process have caused high rates of cancer and other illnesses in their community.

The Metro Health Department ordered the site cleaned up before construction of a shopping and residential complex begins there.

The chemicals — toxic solvents widely used and formerly unregulated in the dry-cleaning industry — could become airborne or seep into ground water during excavation and blasting, so they must be removed before such work begins, health officials said.

Residents said they were happy the cleanup had begun but remain skeptical that all of the toxic chemicals will be removed. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is overseeing the cleanup. Some residents also said the planned commercial development would be a blight on the community.

"We have had too many deaths here because of that dry cleaners, and this neighborhood does not need to be harmed any more," said Janice Davis, who leads one of the neighborhood groups opposed to the commercial development.



"Imagine the assault on this community with hundreds of cars a day coming through here."

Darrell Moore, who grew up next to the dry cleaners, said he fears that some toxic chemicals will remain after the cleanup and pose a threat to the community's health.

"It's not a happy affair to be living next door to that thing," said Moore, whose mother lives next to the property. "It will always be in the back of my mind what those chemicals did to us."

While Metro health officials have said the chemicals pose no public health threat as long as they aren't disturbed, they have not ruled out the possibility that the chemicals might have harmed community health in the past.

The facility began as a laundry in 1931 and operated as a dry cleaner from 1947 to 2000. Throughout that time, toxic substances in unknown

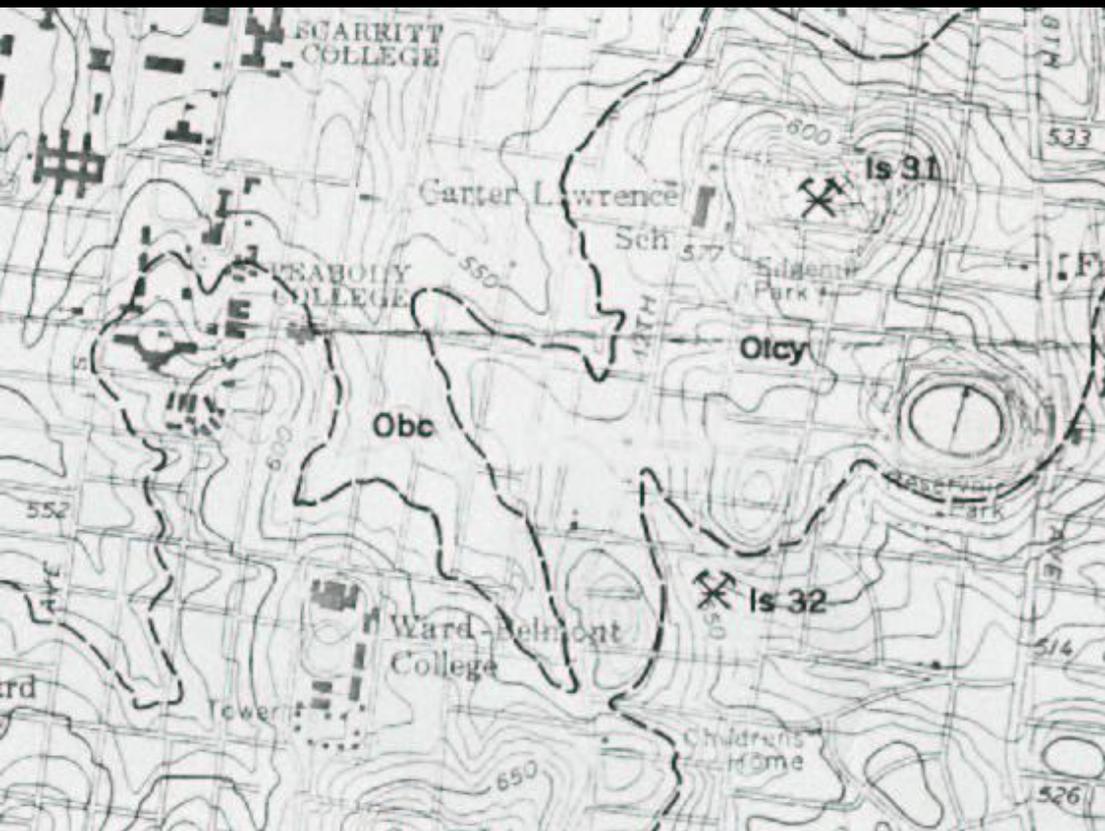
quantities were released into the air through a smokestack and into the ground as a result of faulty equipment and improper handling, according to an April 2003 Metro Health Department study.

During most of that time, health officials said, dry-cleaning substances were not regulated and their health risks were not known.

State officials said the cleanup would include removal of about 215 tons of contaminated soil and about 2,000 gallons of contaminated ground water through two extraction wells. State environmental officials and Metro health officials have said they will make sure the site poses no public health threat before construction of the commercial complex begins.

Wade Elam, a longtime owner of the dry cleaners and one of the developers of the commercial complex, said he plans to refurbish the existing structure before construction of the larger complex begins.

In a few years, Elam and other developers hope to build a 64,800-square-foot shopping, dining and residential complex at the site. Elam said he would probably have the first commercial tenants in the building this spring. "While they're doing the cleanup, we'll be working on the buildings," he said. "As soon as they're done, we can start leasing." Elam has joined in a voluntary state program in which owners of dry cleaners pay taxes on the solvents they buy. The tax revenue funds a pool that participants can use to clean their facilities. ■



Thickness of Group 30 to 70 feet.

Olcy

Leipers and Catheys Formations

Limestone, argillaceous, nodular and shaly, medium-dark gray to brownish-gray, thin-bedded, fossiliferous; limestone, dark-gray (weathers pale yellowish-brown), fine-grained, thin- to medium-bedded; and calcarenite, medium-light gray to brownish-gray, coarse-grained, medium-bedded, crossbedded, contains brown phosphate pellets, weathers to brown phosphatic residuum. Basal beds contain abundant *Constellaria*. Thickness 150 to 220 feet.

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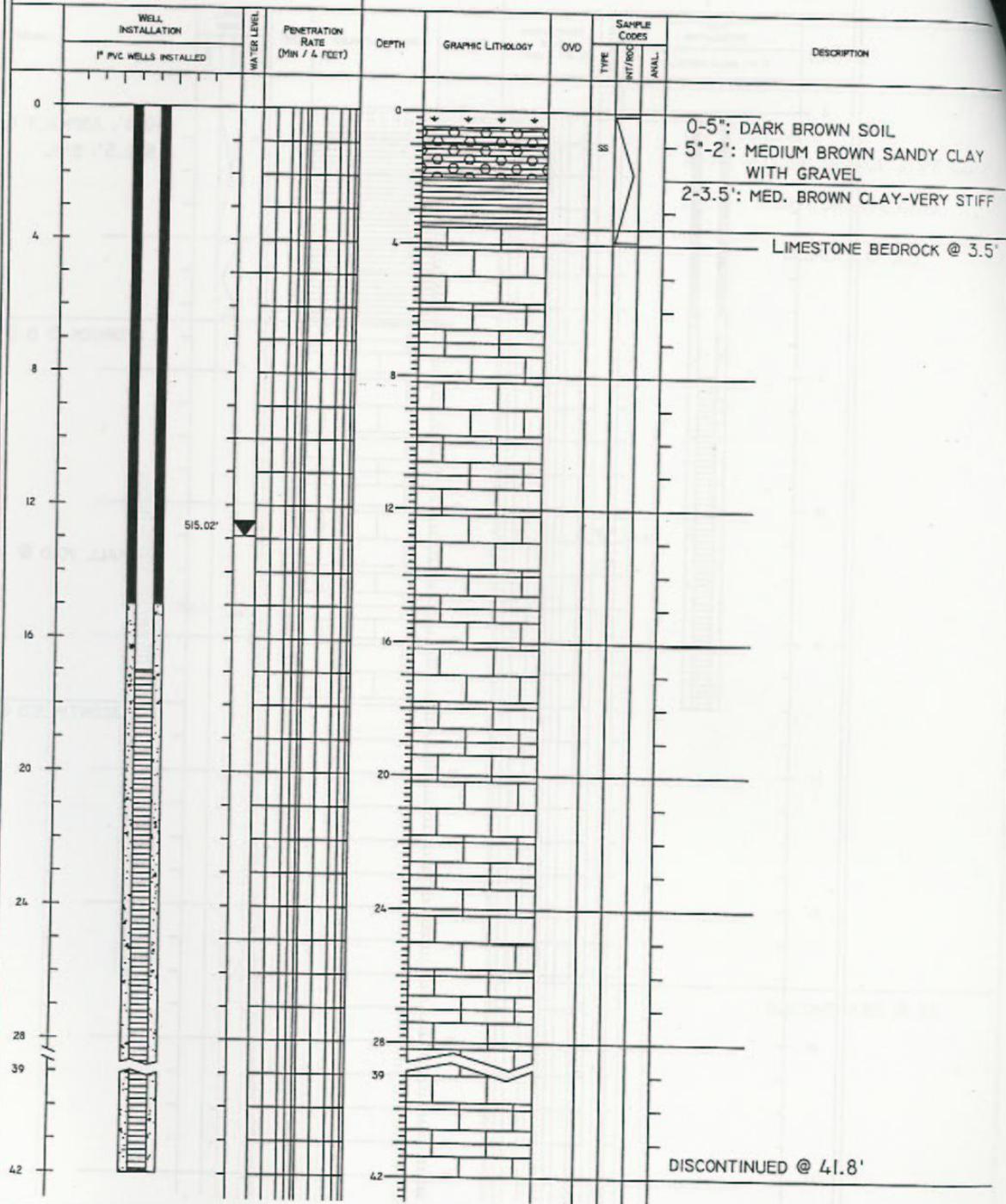
Bigby-Cannon Limestone

The Bigby-Cannon Limestone in this area consists of three facies—Cannon limestone, Dove-colored limestone, and Bigby limestone—which replace each other vertically and laterally. The formation consists entirely of Bigby limestone locally in the west. Throughout the rest of the quadrangle the Bigby limestone comprises zones at the top and base and in the middle of the formation; these zones are separated by relatively thin zones of Dove-colored and Cannon limestones. Thickness of formation 60 to 110 feet; thickens eastward.

Cannon limestone facies is medium-dark gray to brownish-gray, microcrystalline to medium-grained, thin- to medium-bedded, evenly bedded. Composite thickness 0 to 40 feet; absent in the northwest.

Dove-colored limestone facies is medium-light gray to medium-gray (weathers to light-gray surface), cryptocrystalline, medium-bedded, evenly bedded, brittle, breaks with pronounced conchoidal fracture, contains specks and stringers of clear calcite. Composite thickness 0 to 15 feet; absent in the northwest.

Bigby limestone facies is calcarenite, medium-light gray to brownish-gray, coarse-grained, medium-bedded, crossbedded, contains brown phosphate pellets, weathers to brown phosphatic residuum. Composite thickness 60 to 70 feet.



ANALYTICAL RESULTS - GROUNDWATER *in parts per billion (ppb or $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$)*

TVG Environmental, April 14, 1999

Analyte	MW-1	MW-2	MW-3	MW-4	MW-5	MW-6	MW-9 (duplicate MW-6)	TDEC-SRS Remediation Guidance Level <i>ppb ($\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$)</i>
TPH-GRO	2,610	4,490	290	ND	520	1,210	1,130	1,000 (total)
EPH	700	3,270	ND	ND	160	450	530	
Stoddard	1,160	5,490	ND	ND	180	300	220	1,000
PCE	2,650	400	7.3	7.0	83	ND	15	5.0
TCE	320	700	2.2	ND	4.0	ND	10	5.0

TABLE 1
FORMER WHITE WAY CLEANERS - DCERP ID # D-19-150
Preliminary Remedial Action in Main Source Areas
ANALYTICAL RESULTS FOR GROUNDWATER - DRYCLEANING CONSTITUENTS (April 2004)
in micrograms per liter (µg/l) or parts per billion (ppb)

Analyte	MW-1			MW-2			MW-3			MW-5			MW-7			MW-8			MW-12			TN MCLs DW
	2/03	2/04	4/04	2/03	2/04	4/04	2/03	2/04	4/04	2/03	2/04	4/04	2/03	2/04	4/04	2/03	2/04	4/04	2/03	2/04	4/04	
PCE	570	1200	2100	<100	<50	<100	26	32	<50	220	79	420	<1.0	<1.0	<50	7.9	5.0	2.0	8.6	18	15	5.0
TCE	180	490	450	<100	<50	<100	6.2	12	+/- 30	110	26	130	<1.0	<1.0	<50	3.7	3.8	1.2	<1.0	2.3	<1.0	5.0
cis-1,2 DCE	880	2000	710	14000	4800	1200	58	88	93	1200	1100	2100	<1.0	<1.0	<5	20	44	16	<1.0	4.4	1.8	70
trans-1,2 DCE	12	38	7.4	200	180	<100	<1.0	1.3	<50	20	9.6	<50	<1.0	<1.0	<50	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	100
Vinyl Chloride	10	<20	28	5700	3200	670	<1.0	1.1	<50	10	4.4	<50	<1.0	<1.0	<50	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	2.0
EPH	220	400	280	740	3000	560	<100	130	<100	<100	<100	<100	<100	140	<100	<100	<100	120	<100	170	190	1,000*
Stoddard Solvent **	<11	>20	196	<37	2100	500		>6		BDL			BDL	>7		BDL	5	<6	BDL	>8.5	<9.5	1,000*

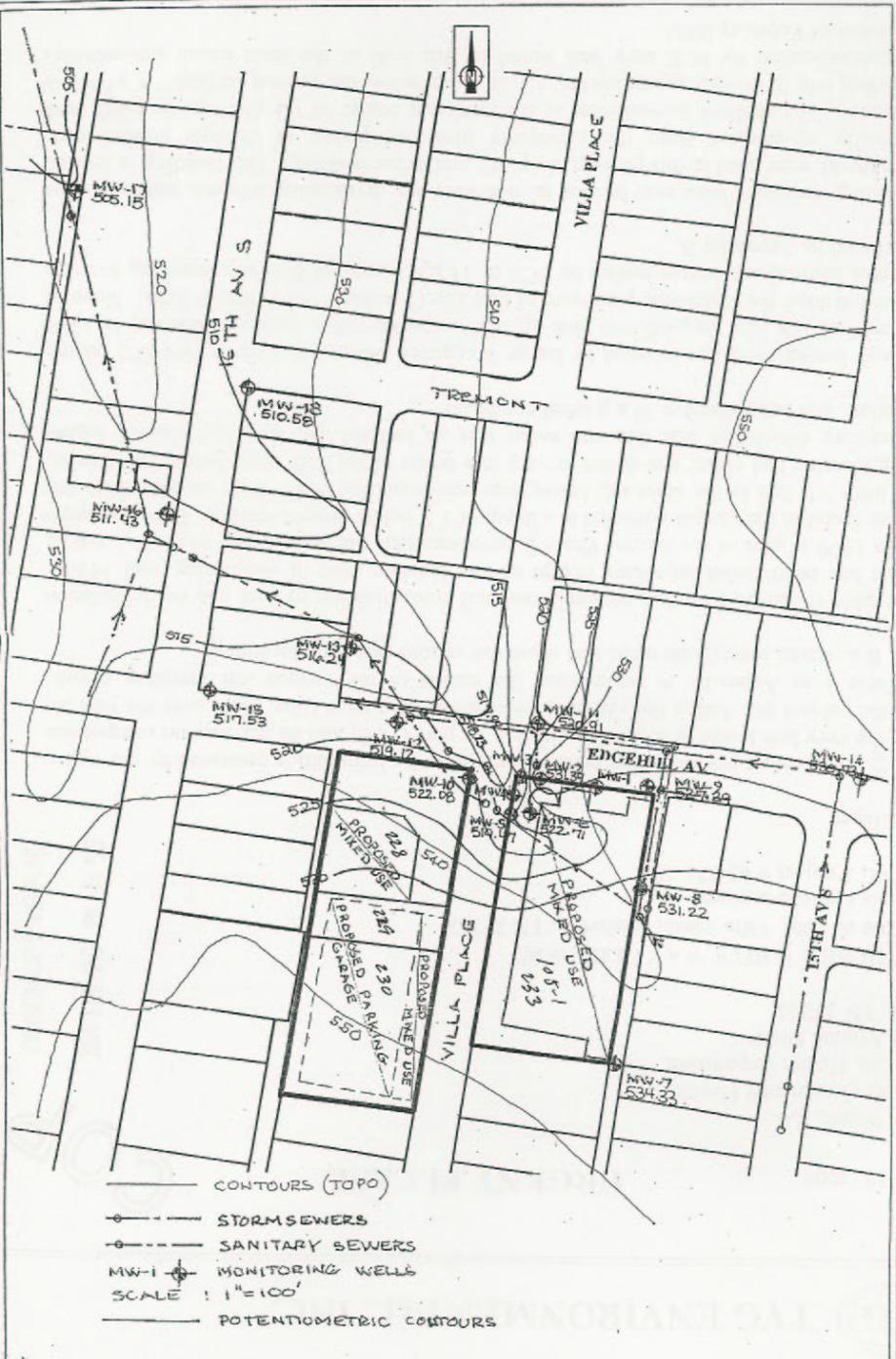
TVG Environmental, Inc.

Drawing Title: Remediation Surface Elevation, 2003
 Project Name: White, Wey, Classes

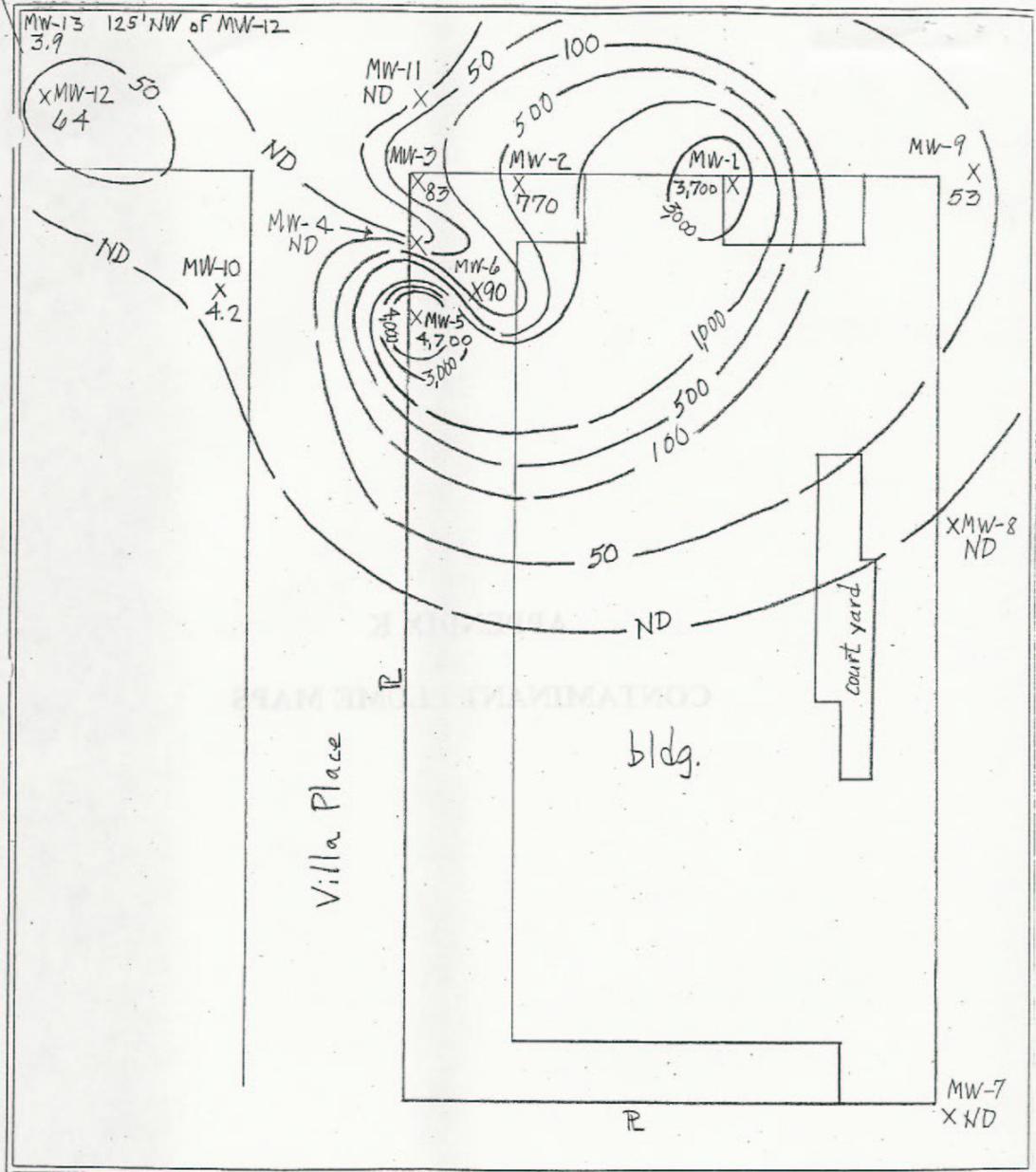
Drawing No.: 02-004-00B 4-C3-136-10 B
 Drawing #:

Scale: 1" = 100'
 Date: March 2003

Drawn by: Robert A. Miller, P.O.
 Approved by: Alexander Prokhorov, P.E.

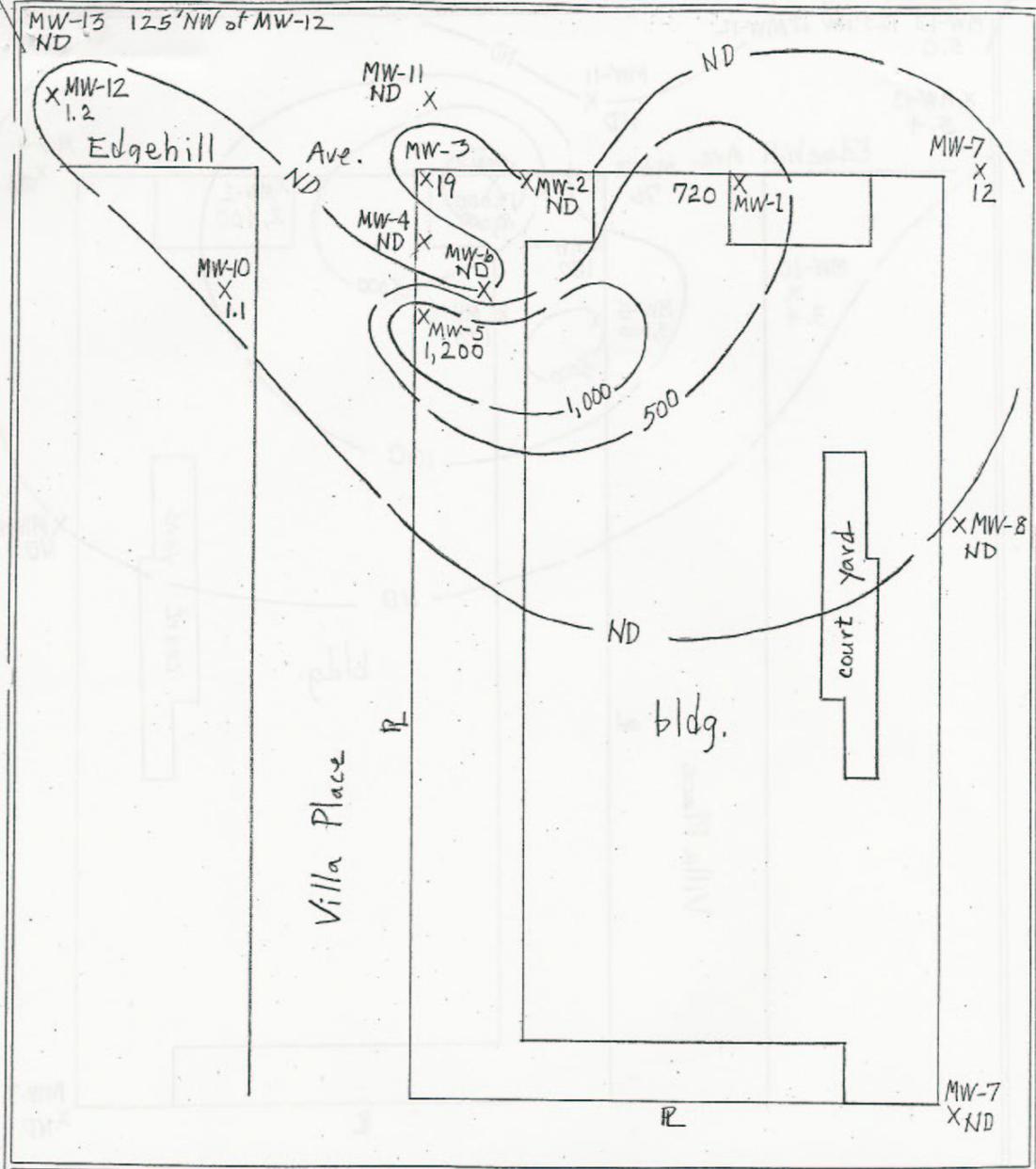


- CONTOURS (TOPO)
- STORM SEWERS
- SANITARY SEWERS
- MW-1 MONITORING WELLS
- SCALE: 1" = 100'
- POTENTIOMETRIC CONTOURS



TVG ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

Drawn By: Robert A. Miller P.G.	Scale: 1" = 40'	Date: 3/28/01
Approved By:		Revised:
Drawing Title: Perchloroethene levels (ppb) 3/23/01		Drawing #:
Project Name: Whiteway Cleaners		Project #: 00-183-07K



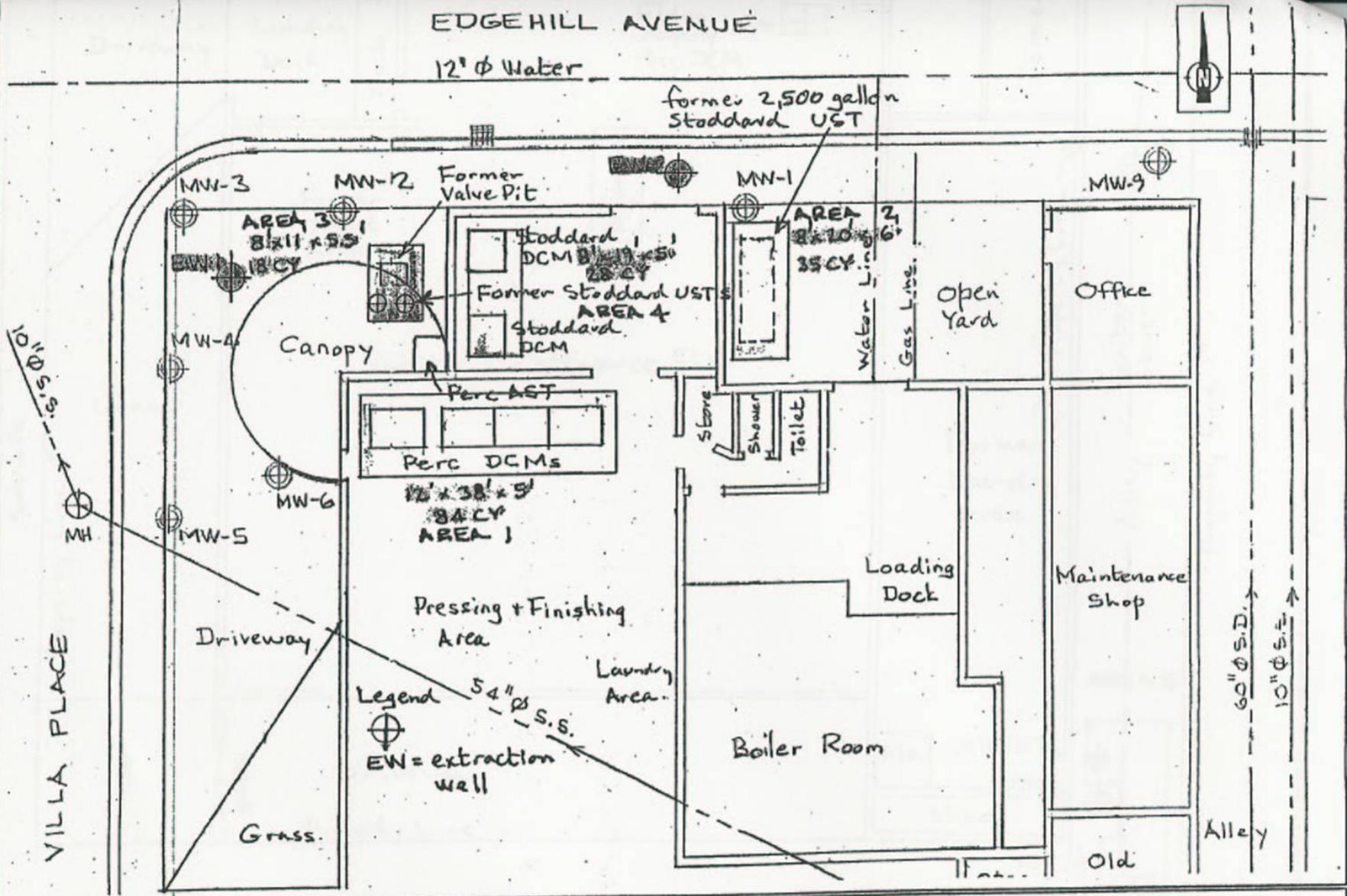
TVG ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

Drawn By: Robert A. Miller P.Eng.	Scale: 1"=40'	Date: 3/28/01
Approved By:		Revised:
Drawing Title: Trichloroethene levels (PPB) 3/23/01		Drawing #:
Project Name: Whiteway Cleaners		Project #: 00-183-07K

EDGEHILL AVENUE

12" ϕ Water

former 2,500 gallon
Stoddard UST



TVG ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

Drawn By: MALCOLM PFOTENHAUER

Scale: 1" = 20'

Date: 10-3-03

Drawing #:

Approved By: *MD*

Revised: 11-25-03

Project #: 03-136-10B

Project Name: WHITE WAY CLEANERS - DCERP RA

Drawing Title: AREAS FOR REMEDIAL EXCAVATION

4 MEME VACUUM EXTRACTION

Health study fails to reassure neighbors about safety of Edgehill dry-cleaners site

By LINDA BRYANT
Staff Writer

EDGEHILL— Members of the Organized Neighbors of Edgehill said in a community meeting with health officials last week that they aren't pleased with the department's final report about the long-term effect of toxic substances and cancer rates at the former site of White Way Cleaners.

Officials from Metro Health Department said cleanup and monitoring of tons of contaminated soil and water from the site has been a success and that levels of toxic substances such as perchloroethylene, or perc, and vinyl chloride now are at safe levels.

They said no "deep excavation" will be allowed at the site, that it's safe for development to continue at the property and that Metro Health has a long-term commitment to monitoring ongoing testing and cleanup of toxins at the site.

"They have removed the chemicals to such a low level that it's not something we're concerned about as far as a threat," said Brian Todd, a spokesman for Metro Health. "They have made incredible progress."

The meeting — held last Thursday at the Carter-Lawrence Elementary Math and Science Magnet School on 12th Avenue South — was called to answer neighbors' lingering concerns about the study.

The results found no unusual increase in cancer incidence or cancer deaths near the old dry cleaners at 1200 Villa Place during the years from 1990-2000.

The White Way dry-cleaning facility operated at the site from



PHOTOS BY RICKY ROGERS / STAFF

James Hall sits in front of his home on the corner of Edgehill Avenue and Villa Place. Hall has lived across from the former White Way Cleaners building for 25 years. The site is being redeveloped into a mixed-use development with office and retail spaces.

the community. Bring us back a better report."

Crawford, and about 20 of her neighbors, questioned why the study didn't include other side effects of chemicals, such as liver, neurological or reproductive damage.

They were unhappy that the study couldn't include people who no longer live in the area and that records used for the study



Some residents living near the former White Way Cleaners site still have concerns about the safety of soil and water contaminated by dry-cleaning chemicals. Metro

LOCAL NEWS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2005

Metro: OK to build at cleaner

Development called safe as long as tainted soil left undisturbed

By KATE HOWARD
Staff Writer

A mixed-use development is in the works at a contaminated site on Villa Place in Edgehill, but Metro Public Health Department officials say there is no cause for concern.

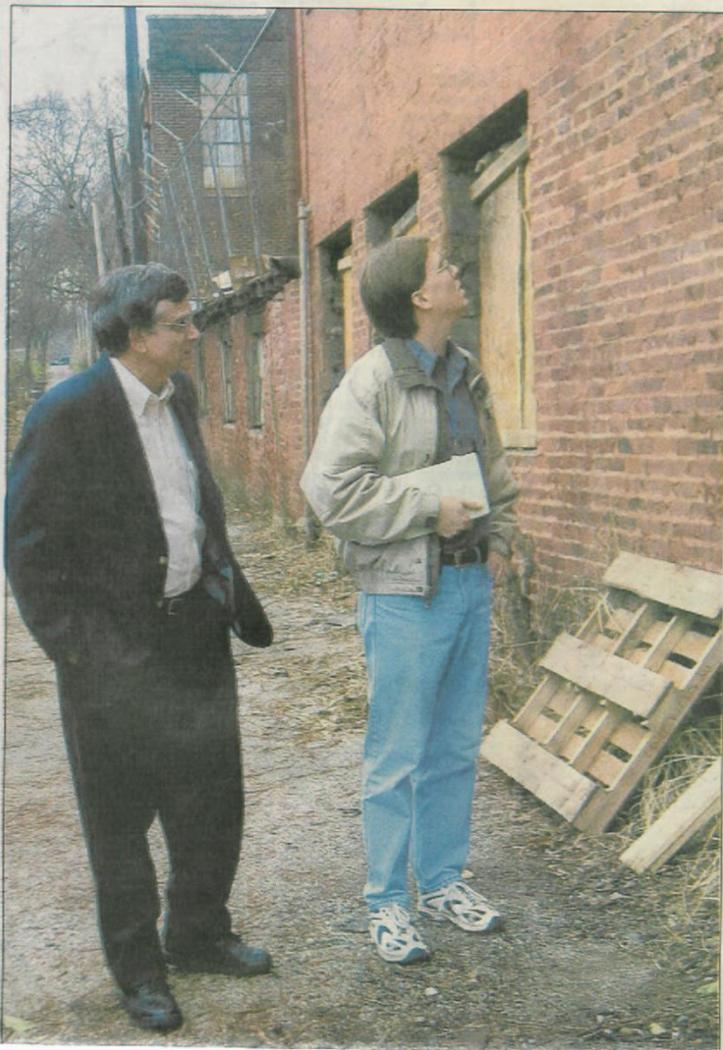
Commercial Industrial Real Estate Associates recently started construction on a 64,800-square-foot development with retail stores, restaurants and apartments at 1200 Villa Place. Several wells have been drilled inside and around the former site of White Way Cleaners dry-cleaning plant to monitor chemical levels in the groundwater.

Metro health officials say the level of contamination from dry-cleaning chemicals has dropped off enough that construction at the site is safe—as long as there's no excavation.

"We don't think there's a health problem or hazard with anything they're planning to do," said G. Brent Hager, director of the bureau of environmental health services for the Metro Public Health Department.

Hager was at the construction site yesterday with environmental engineer Eric McCann to be sure the company is complying with its permits. The developers are only permitted to excavate as much as two feet, Hager said, so no contaminated soil or groundwater will be disturbed. The developer has removed and properly disposed of the most contaminated portions of the building, Hager said.

Groundwater quality is improving, and since the neighborhood is on municipal water, there is no danger, Hager said.



Edgehill Village

An urban village
redevelopment project



- Loft Apartments
- Office
- Retail Shops
- Restaurant

COMING SOON

COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL
REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATES, INC.

352-6100









Former Edgehill cleaner site opens as retail, office area

Edgehill Village also will add loft apartments

By **CHRIS JONES**
Staff Writer

Half of the Edgehill Village development is open and is expected to be fully occupied by the fall, the owners said.

The complex has been a two-year project of Commercial Industrial Real Estate Associates Inc.

Getting there

Edgehill Village is at 1201 Villa Place. For more information about the complex call 352-6100. For more information about Edgehill Studios call 301-8539 or log on to www.edgehillstudios.com. For more information on the Artful Dog Gallery call 320-6595.

next stage of the development and that 50% of the project will be loft apartments that will range in size from 800 to 2,000 square feet.

"We literally are in the planning stage," he said.

The remainder of the space will house small retail shops and restaurants.



Edgehill Village is on Villa Place. The former dry cleaner building will include retail and residential space when complete.



Manager Kim Turrell makes a coffee drink at Edgehill Studios in Edgehill Village. The studio has a coffee shop, live music stage, full print shop and an iPod-laptop bar.

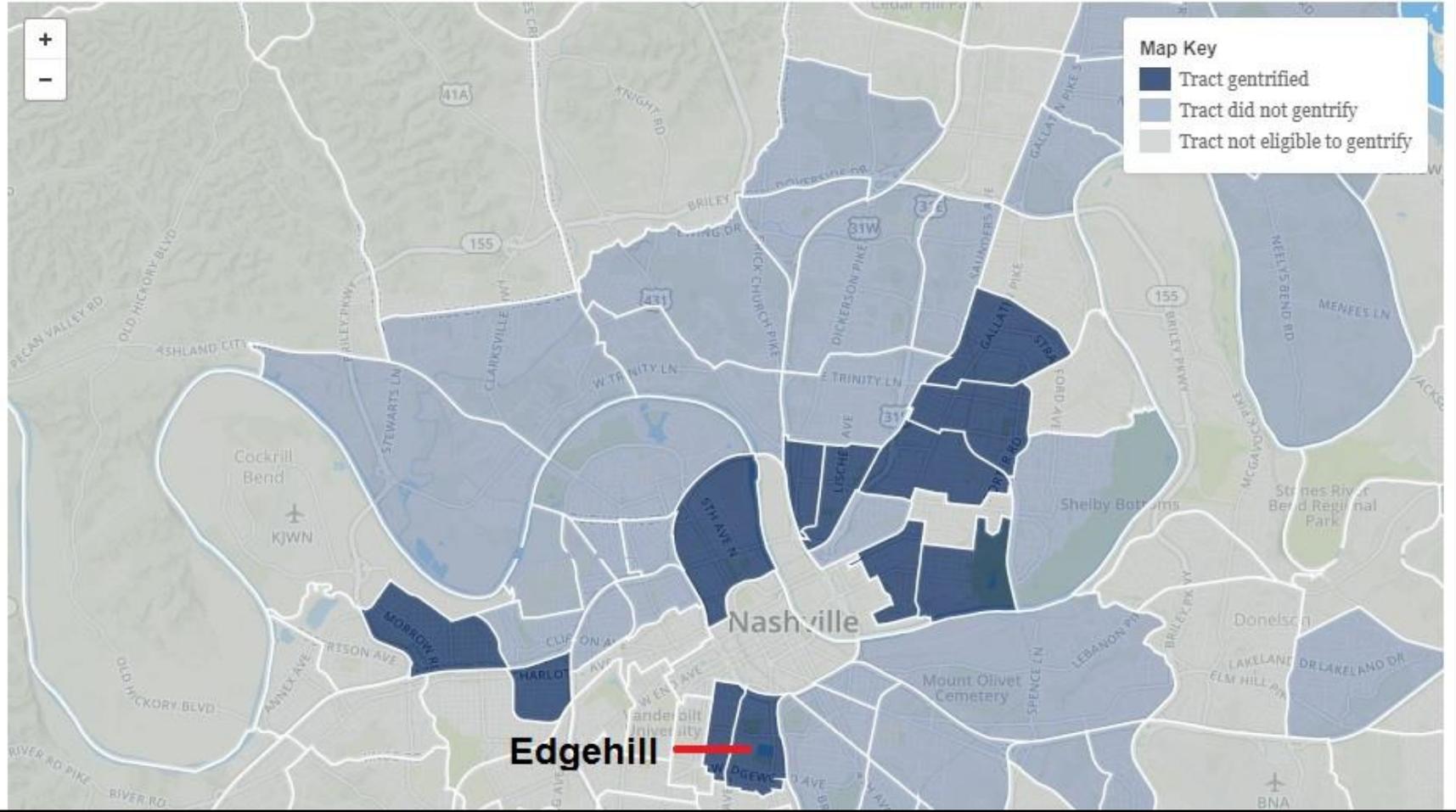
PHOTOS BY MANDY LUNN / STAFF

► Please see **VILLAGE, PAGE 2**

conservation zoning squabble moves onto the Web

Nashville Gentrification Map: 2000 Census - Present

Click a tract to display its demographic data:



Green Gentrification – Note that the areas of Nashville that are becoming gentrified closely correspond with brownfields development sites.

(Source: <http://www.governing.com/gov-data/nashville-gentrification-maps-demographic-data.html>)

African American Community Poisoned by Landfill Leachate Dickson County, Tennessee



**Sheila Holt-
Orstead
and Family**

Tennessee family fights environmental racism

By James Wright
AFRO Staff Writer

Sheila Holt-Orsted comes from a long-established proud family located in Dickson County, Tenn., 35 miles west of Nashville. However, the family learned several years ago that they were drinking contaminated water from a nearby well without being told.

Large amounts of toxic chemicals have been seeping into the groundwater. This chemical, trichloroethylene or TCE, is

harmless in small amounts, but can cause brain damage in large doses.

It is known to be the 15th

"I hope people will become conscious of environmental racism because it affects us all."

most toxic chemical known to man, and Tennessee officials have estimated that the well is 148 times more toxic than a human should take in.

What made things worse is that White people in the area

were warned by state and federal officials not to drink the water, but nothing was said to the Black residents. As a result, Holt-

Orsted's family is suffering from various ailments.

"The people in Tennessee told us that the water was safe," Holt-Orsted said. "They were wrong and I think they tried to hurt us."

Holt-Orsted suffers from breast cancer and has undergone operations to try to cure the disease. A former bodybuilder and fitness instructor, she has contacted various government officials to try to alleviate the problems.

"I have contacted my congressman, John Tanner, as well as both of my senators," Holt-Orsted said. "They have been in touch with me, but I expect action."

What Holt-Orsted and her family want is for the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to clean up the contaminated water. She also wants the state of Tennessee and the federal government to financially com-



Courtesy Photo

Sheila Holt-Orsted (middle) listens to the Rev. Richard Sibert talk about environmental racism in Dickson County, Tenn. To her left is her sister, Bonnie Holt, and to the right of Sibert is the Rev. Jerry Jenkins, a leading missionary baptist minister in Tennessee.

Continued on A4

that the amendment be added to the lawsuit after he said he learned through documents that nine white families were notified in 1993 of the existence of a harmful chemical in well water. High levels of trichloroethylene or TCE, a cancer-causing agent, were found in area wells.

Other documents showed that it was at least nine more years before the Holt family learned of the contamination.

Sexton said the amendment could be added to the lawsuit, but under the Tennessee Tort Liability Act, Dickson County and the city of Dickson would be exempt from a jury trial on that issue. The judge also refused to stay the lawsuit for Alper Holdings U.S.A., the parent company that owns the defunct Scovill-Shrader.

The lawsuit contends the tire valve manufacturer buried drums in the landfill containing the toxic chemical.

Shelia Holt, 43, and several members of her family have lived near the contaminated site since 1973. She was diagnosed with breast cancer last year, four months after learning her father had prostate cancer. The Holts are suing for an unspecified amount of money.

— PATRICIA LYNCH KIMBRO,
THE DICKSON HERALD

5 CHARLOTTE

11/26/04

Family can add claim of bias to landfill suit

Dickson County Circuit Court Judge George Sexton has agreed that attorneys for an African-American family can include a claim of racial discrimination by amending their lawsuit against a former automotive manufacturer over toxic groundwater contamination.

James Johnson, attorney for the Holt family on Eno Road near the Dickson County Landfill, asked

TABLE 2
SUMMARY OF TCE AND DCE RESULTS, SPRINGS AND PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES
DICKSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Residence/ Water Supply	Date	TCE (•g/L)	DCE (•g/L)
L. Gorley/ private well	October 25, 2000	0.6	BDL
L. Gorley/ private well	October 31, 2000	0.5J	BDL
H. Holt/private well	October 12, 1988	3.5	BDL
H. Holt/ private well	January 28, 1990	26.0	BDL
H. Holt/private well	August 17, 1990	3.9	BDL
H. Holt/ private well	August 23, 1991	3.7	BDL
H. Holt/private well	October 9, 2000	120.0	6.6
H. Holt/private well	October 25, 2000	145.0	8.6
H. Holt/private well	January 2001	64.0	2.9
H. Holt/private well	October 2001	160.0	2.0
H. Holt/private well	May 2002	34.0	1.0
H. Holt/private well	April 2003	16.0	1.1
L. Holt/private well	October 25, 2000	0.2 J	BDL
L. Holt/private well	October 2001	BDL	BDL
L. Holt/private well	May 2002	BDL	BDL
L. Holt/private well	October 2002	BDL	BDL
L. Holt/private well	April 2003	BDL	BDL
R. Holt/private well	November 2000	5.0	BDL
R. Holt/private well	January 2001	8.0	BDL
R. Holt/private well	October 2001	3.0	2.2
R.Holt/private well	May 2002	2.0	BDL
R. Holt/private well	October 2002	2.0	BDL
R. Holt/private well	April 2003	9.0	1.4
Sullivan Spring	March 5, 1994	18.0	5.0
Sullivan Spring	June, 25, 1994	83.0	19.0
Sullivan Spring	September 1, 1994	59.0	9.8
Sullivan Spring	September 28, 1994	84.0	17.0
Sullivan Spring	May 22, 1995	31.0	6.8
Sullivan Spring	August 19, 1996	<5	<5
Sullivan Spring	December 3, 1996	<5	<5
Sullivan Spring	May 14, 1997	230.0	31.0
Sullivan Spring	August 26, 1999	160.0	39.0
Sullivan Spring	September 20, 2000	16.0	25.0
Sullivan Spring	May 2002	23.0	1.0
Sullivan Spring	November 2002	110.0	26.0
Sullivan Spring	April 2003	130.0	34.0

Dickson County Landfill Area Geology

6.2 GEOLOGIC/HYDROGEOLOGIC CONDITIONS

The karst geologic and hydrogeologic conditions in Dickson County are characteristically sensitive to releases to the environment because of the potential for rapid contaminant migration and the ability for contaminants to travel long distances. The conduit-type flow pattern characteristic of karst settings and the associated jointing and bedding planes of the underlying bedrock can quicken contaminant transport and make source identification more difficult. Information on such conditions was available in the Dickson County Landfill, Dickson Water Department, and Scovill/Schrader Automotive files.

Groundwater monitoring programs in the area typically involve many wells (Scovill/Schrader), include dye traces that are sometimes inconclusive (Dickson County Landfill), access conduit-type zones in the bedrock (the 17-foot-tall conduit of well DK-21 and the conduit in well MW-8A at the landfill), and wells in multiple water-bearing zones (Scovill/Schrader). The geology in the Dickson area is further complicated by the existence of a surface drainage divide, the regional structural dip of the rock, and numerous spring discharges that feed most streams in the area. Perennial streams in the area, most notably the East and West Piney Rivers, are all recharged primarily from spring discharges.

**DICKSON
COUNTY**

SOLID WASTE
MON. - SAT.
HOURS 7-4
OFF 446-0019
EMG 446-6757



View of landfill from front yard of Holt family home in Dickson County, Tennessee



State of Tennessee is no Titan When Protecting Black Family from Toxic Racism – Dr. Robert Bullard
<https://www.opednews.com/articles/State-of-Tennessee-is-No-T-by-Robert-Bullard-111219-203.html>

Earth Day 2012: Toxic Environmental Racism in Tennessee Threatens Family – Dr. Robert Bullard
<https://www.opednews.com/articles/State-of-Tennessee-is-No-T-by-Robert-Bullard-111219-203.html>

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